



Nebraska Task Force - 1

January 1998

Announcements

An E-Mail Canine List - For those of you who have an E-Mail address we have created a USAR Canine Group E-Mail List on the computer that will allow us to communicate quickly with you. We will continue to send out the Canine Bulletin, the USAR Dog E-Mail List is just for quick informational purposes.

Everyone is to bring a copy of their dogs current health records to the January 17th, 1998 training session.

The Training Division at Lincoln Fire Department has added two ladders 1- 'little giant' and 1 - 'folding' to the storage area in the south end of the diner car for canine personnel to train with.

Training Topics

TRANSITIONING THE ALERT - DEVELOPING VICTIM LOYALTY - *by Elaine Sawtell*

The goal of alert training is to develop a dependable, obvious indication by the dog of live human scent from a victim they (and we) cannot see.

We develop in our dogs a web of search drive, a strong bark penetration and victim loyalty. Victim loyalty is the quality of the dog, once he has found live human scent, continuing to alert and attempt to penetrate in spite of distractions, including the distraction of the handler's praise and arrival at the alert site.

To achieve this goal, we start with a systematic progression for teaching the bark alert. Before asking the dog to alert in rubble, we have in place a solid, confident bark at the barrel. We have developed and consistently use a routine buildup. We do runaways, walkaways, pop ups and cold shots. We have disguised the outward appearance of the barrel. We have added the search element at times. We think about each bark alert exercise, vary the number of barks requested of the dog, give the type of reward the dog likes best and, whenever possible, we end every training session with the dog alerting at the barrel for his dinner.

The transition into alerting in rubble must be careful, well thought out and taught at the barrel. The reward has always come from the victim, and to develop victim loyalty the dog must learn to expect this even when the handler is present.

To encourage this behavior, at the barrel the handler should approach when the dog alerts, stroke and praise the dog while he continues to bark for, and be rewarded by, the victim. The handler should take a few steps

back, come up again and stroke and praise. The exercise may end with the victim coming out with the dog or the handler finishing the dog's reward.

As always, in this stage of training, variety is the key. Sometimes the victim should bring the dog back to the handler, sometimes the handler should uncover the victim for the dog.

This is just one building block in developing a dog who becomes obsessed with his job of staying with the scent of the victim in spite of any distraction.

OBEDIENCE AND YOUR USAR DOG -

by Dian Quist Sulek

The required skills for the Type II - Basic Evaluation include: Non-Aggressive to Stranger; Non-Aggressive to Dog on Figure 8; Heels through Crowd, with Turns and Changes of Pace; Emergency Stop; Stays on Long Down/Wait for 5 Minutes.

Some additional commands you and your dog should know are:
STOP: While heeling, during recall, during go-backs, or anytime your dog is away from you.

EASY: Same as above. In a disaster site you may be sending your dog through broken glass, or in an area that is unsafe.

EXAMINATION OF YOUR DOG: Lay your dog on its side, examine paws, legs, belly, etc. for abrasions and cuts.

BITE INHIBITION: No matter how friendly or solid your dogs temperament, if your dog does not have bite inhibition he may bite under extreme stress/fatigue.

RELEASE COMMAND: Something like "OK" or "FREE" to let your dog know he is done working.

LEAVE IT: A disaster site such as an earthquake or tornado may have all sorts of food and garbage around. Your dog needs to know that it is not acceptable to "chow-down".

BACK-UP: Practice this, just so you know your dog can do it. Your dog may get in a tunnel, culvert or crevice and not be able to turn around, and will have to back-out.

FEMA News

SAR DOGS ON NATIONAL TV -

by Mark Foster / MATF-1

Saturday, January 10th's episode of "America's Most Wanted" features a real search performed by three operational dogs from Florida Special Response Team-A based in Fort Lauderdale, they were told they would be reenacting a search previously done four years earlier. Instead, upon arrival at the designated location, they were asked by the FBI and a local law enforcement agency to search new territory including a fair sized body of water. Check your local TV listings for time and channel.

Participating were K9 Samantha, an eight year old Husky (and one of the few examples of the "northern" breeds working in SAR); K9 Jason, a five year old German Shepherd Dog; and K9 Bear, an eleven year old Golden Retriever with the world's best dog manners.

Canine Bulletin

NETE-1

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Samantha's handler is Ed Wolff, the Team Manager. Ed's been involved in SAR for about 23 years (currently a SAR Tech I), is a veteran of the Air Force and currently is with the Pompano Beach Police Department. Ed is active in all facets of SAR including serving on various committees for NASAR (National Association for Search And Rescue), FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), and ASTM (American Society for Testing and Measurement).

Bear's handler, Reed Lorber is the team's Dog Boss and has the responsibility to get all new handlers and their dogs up to speed in dog related areas. Reed has been involved with SAR since 1991 (a SAR Tech II) and is a detective with the Pompano Beach Police Department.

Jason is handled by Art Wolff (a SAR Tech I Coordinator) who also functions as the team's Chief Training Officer with responsibility for qualifying all team members in SAR Tech, communications, etc. Art also started his SAR career in the Air Force, has been in the field for over 20 years and has been with the Team since its inception. He is a detective with the Fort Lauderdale Police Department.

FL Special Response Team - A has been a SAR unit for about 18 years. It is currently comprised of 25 members and 14 dogs at various stages of training.

All team members must be active or former law enforcement, life safety, military, or medical personnel. Team members are held to a high standard. Those who are considered operational beyond the BOO (Base Of Operations) are required to hold minimum ratings of SAR Tech II and Medical First Responder. BOO personnel must hold ratings of at least SAR Tech III and Advanced First Aid.

The team's primary AO (Area of Operations) is the four southeastern counties of Florida (Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe) although it is available for call-out worldwide. Team members have responded to SAR requests in Oklahoma City, Puerto Rico, 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, as well as Hurricanes Andrew and Opal. The team is a functional unit of FEMA FL TF-2 (where Ed Wolff serves as Search Manager; Art and Reed participate as Dog Handlers) and is affiliated with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Of note, the Team has in the past, and is currently available, to train other SAR units. For further information, please contact Sue Wolff, Administrator at: E-mail: suecustiswolff@juno.com OR mail: PO Box 26173, Tamarac, FL 33320.

Upcoming Training Events

UPCOMING FEMA STANDARD LEVEL II CANINE EVALUATION

Level II Canine Evaluations are scheduled for late February - early March in Miami, Florida. This evaluation will be open to all Response System Task Forces, but Division C Canine Search teams will be given first priority.

MATF-1 will be hosting Advanced Testing. Tentative scheduled training dates are September 26th & 27th, 1998.

NETF-1 K9 training sessions will be held the third Saturday of each month at the Lincoln Fire Department Training Center located at 3rd & South Street from 8:00am - 4:00pm. These training sessions are a great time to observe other dog/handler teams, take ADVANTAGE of the NETF-1 trainers expertise, get ideas on what, where and with who you can train in between monthly sessions.

Calender of Canine Training for 1998

January 17	Outstate in NE	July 18	NETF-1 in MO
February 21	3rd & South/8am	August 15	3rd & South/8am
March 21	NETF-1 in MO	September 19	Outstate in NE
April 18	3rd & South/8am	*October 10&11	NETF-1 in MO
May 16	Outstate in NE	November 21	NETF-1 in MI
June 20	3rd & South/8am	*December	NO monthly session

Outstate NETF-1 Members in Lincoln = Outstate Members of NETF-1 will be in Lincoln to work their dogs. These members are very knowledgeable some have been deployed, so take advantage of this time to ask questions and get to know them. Observing the more advanced dog/handler teams can also help give you ideas for training your dog.

NETF-1 in Missouri = Members of the Nebraska Task Force are invited to attend the MOTF-1 training session in Columbia, Missouri. HOWEVER, the most advanced dogs will be worked first. THERE IS NO GUARANTEE that you will have the opportunity to work your dog on the Missouri equipment.

TRAINERS - Monica Barger, Alise Dart, Laura Elwess, Melody Jensen, Vicky Moser, and Dian Quist Sulek.

TRAINING LOGS - Training logs must be completed and turned in each month. Your training hours provide important documentation when the Nebraska Task Force (NETF-1) is "audited" by FEMA. A blank log is attached for your use.

Training Logs Submission Address

Mail or Drop Off Logs to:
Sandy Yost
Lincoln Fire Department
1801 "Q" Street
Lincoln, Ne. 68508

Submission of Items for the "Canine Bulletin"

!E-mail, E-mail, E-mail!

E-mail address:
smanning@email.ci.lincoln.ne.us
(preferable, if possible)

Otherwise please mail submissions to:
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Address/Phone # Changes

Contact: Sandy or Shelly @ LFD Fire Administration
(402) 441-7363 or e-mail